

OREGON NEWS OF INTEREST

NEEDS OF THE PENITENTIARY

Superintendent James Makes Recommendations in Report.

Salem.—The present contract for the employment of Oregon convicts in the penitentiary stove foundry expires in July, 1905, soon after the adjournment of the next legislature, and the question is presented, What shall then be done with the convicts? This question is suggested in the biennial report of Prison Superintendent C. W. James, his only recommendation on the subject being that some plan be adopted by which all the convicts will be given constant employment. This is desired both as a measure of economy for the state and as a means of discipline among the prisoners.

The principal recommendations made by Superintendent James are that provisions be made by which youthful prisoners may be separated from the older men and those sentenced for trivial offenses separated from hardened criminals; that an appropriation be made which will permit the enlargement of the library to 2000 volumes; that more land be purchased so that more of the articles of food may be produced by convict labor; that the foundry buildings be repaired and improved, if the present plan of convict labor is to be continued; that the water-power flume be strengthened so that it will not be in danger of bursting from decay; that a new barn be constructed; that a new system of plumbing be installed in the prison cells; that provision should be made for the employment of guards for prisoners condemned to be hanged, and that an appropriation be made for the purchase of a surgical table and surgical tools for the prison hospital.

More Teachers Are Wanted.

Pendleton.—Twenty-six teachers of the Pendleton city schools have filed their contracts with County Superintendent Frank K. Wells. Only one more is left yet to file. Although the law requires that teachers must file their contracts upon commencing their duties, the Pendleton teachers have just complied with the law. Mr. Wells reports that there are yet a number of Umatilla county districts to be supplied with teachers. The districts are small and pay from \$40 to \$60 a month, and are not much sought for. When teachers are plentiful there is no trouble to supply even the most remote district, but, now, when every teacher is employed, the low wages and undesirable locations hold no inducements to them.

Big Fir from Clatsop.

Astoria.—One of Clatsop county's exhibits at the Lewis and Clark Fair will be a fir log that is perfect as well as immense. It is standing on the property owned by S. E. Harris, on Young's river above the falls, that is now being logged by the Bremner Logging Company. The tree stands perfectly plumb and without a blemish. Ten feet from the ground it measures 13½ feet in diameter and 200 feet above, where the first limb is, it is 8 feet in diameter. The cost of the exhibition of the log will be borne by the different interests that will furnish the necessary tools and appliances to take it from the forest and place it in tide water. The equal of this tree is rarely seen and its like has never been exhibited anywhere.

Big Sale of Timber Land.

Eugene.—It is reported here on good authority that an immense transaction in timber land has been closed, involving a transfer of 24,000 acres of fine timber on the Coast Fork, south of here. The land was owned by several persons who pooled their holdings—the Booths, S. H. Friendly, A. C. Woodcock and several others being the holders—and they have arranged a sale to the new stockholders who recently acquired stock in the Booth-Kelly Company. The price paid is said to be \$15 per acre, which is considered very reasonable for such fine timber.

Dates of Albany Poultry Show.

Albany.—The executive committee of the Central Willamette Poultry Association has set January 18 to 21, inclusive, as the date for holding their next annual poultry show. The show will be held in Albany, as have the former ones of the association, and will be the third under the present association.

Addition to Philomath College.

Philomath.—At an expense of \$7000, extensive improvements will be made to the Philomath College building. Five recitation rooms, a well-equipped laboratory, a commercial room, library, museum and enlarged chapel are the contemplated changes.

OUTLET FOR LUMBER.

Coos Bay Roads Combining to Build a New Line.

Marshfield.—The object of the visit here of Paul Mohr, the Boston railroad promoter, is now definitely known. Mr. Mohr is undertaking to finance the building of a railway connection from Coos Bay to the Southern Pacific at Roseburg. This means either a new line or the extension of the present road from Myrtle Point.

Three routes are being examined, and two surveying parties are in the field. One of these is trying to find a pass along the stage road up the middle fork of the Coquille. The route up the north fork of the Coos river by Loon lake and through Elkton pass has also been explored. It is believed the most feasible route is from Myrtle Point to Camas valley through a low pass east of the Mountain House to Looking-Glass valley, down the Looking-Glass creek to Happy valley and eight miles up the Umpqua to Roseburg.

This route gives a grade nowhere in excess of 2 per cent. It makes an elongated letter "S", and the distance must be over 60 miles from Myrtle Point. This move was inaugurated by Elijah Smith, and he has been working on it since he arrived here from Boston two months ago, but in carrying out the project there will be cooperation of interests. The Spreckels Coos Bay, Roseburg & Eastern Railway to Myrtle Point, the Kinney belt line railroad around Coos Bay and the new line to Roseburg will all work in harmony. This is one result of the conference of railroad men.

Manager Samuels, of the Spreckels steamship lines, who was at the meeting, returned on the last steamer to San Francisco. Behind all this there is believed to be still a deeper significance. Mr. Smith is president of the Southern Oregon Company, which owns 37,000 acres of Coos county timber. It is desired to get the lumber back over the belt line and over a railroad to the eastern market. To this purpose nothing is accomplished by stopping at Roseburg. Lumber at Roseburg is worth even less than it is on Coos bay. To get the benefit desired, the road to Roseburg must lead to the building of a transcontinental line to the East.

Mill Creek Power to be Used.

La Grande.—A company has been formed by a few men who are largely interested in Union county, among whom are Walter M. Pierce, T. H. Crawford, Surveyor Berry and others, with T. H. Crawford as President, who expect soon to establish a water-power plant two miles above the Cove. The water will be taken from Mill creek and a force of men is now at work on a ditch. Already a quarter of a mile of it has been excavated. There will be a power-pipe of 3700 with 820 feet fall. This power will be used for electric lights at the Hot Lake, Cove and possibly La Grande and other points, as well as for other purposes. It will be in working order by early spring.

Woodburn Real Estate Moves.

Woodburn.—Woodburn real estate is selling at advanced prices, and the city has gained 25 per cent in population during the last 12 months. More new buildings have been erected during the last year than ever before during a like period of time. Numerous sales of real estate have been made within the past few days. The following sales of importance were made recently: A. Harhan, residence, \$4500; Walter L. Tooze, 1½ lots on Main street, \$2650; O. D. Henderson, one-half lot on Main street, \$650. The city is filling up with Eastern investors, and prices are booming. Not a house is vacant in the city.

Exhibit from Umatilla County.

Pendleton.—Dr. A. Le Roy, superintendent of the Oregon Information Bureau, met the Commercial Club for the purpose of interesting the citizens of Umatilla county in making an elaborate exhibit of products of the county for the Lewis and Clark Exposition. Mr. Le Roy said he would permit this county to use the exhibit collected by the Information Bureau at the opening of the fair and until the time to gather a fresh exhibit of the various products of this county next year.

Congested with Freight Cars.

Umatilla.—The yards at this point are congested with freight cars from both the Oregon and Washington divisions. Crews are working double shifts to handle the immense wheat shipments. Considerable Asiatic freight is being shipped on through trains to the east via this point. Passenger traffic has also reached the top notch.

Wheat Market.

Portland — Walla Walla, 81@82c; blues'om, 84@85c; valley, 86@87c; Tacoma — Blues'om, 89½c; club, 96½c. Colfax—Club, 75c; blues'om, 75c.

SUNK OWN VESSELS.

Theory of North Sea Incident Finds Favor in London.

London, Nov. 2.—Considerable discussion of the theory that the Russians fired on their own ships and sank one of their own torpedo boats at the time of the North sea outrage has been heard in the last two days in the clubs frequented by naval officers. Nobody questions the correctness of the theory or its compatibility with all the facts known about the sad affair. "The naval officer who suggested this theory, said last night:

"I confidently believe that the inquiry will substantiate my hypothesis. Of course, I don't know that any torpedo boat was sunk by Russian battleships, but if one was sunk, as Admiral Rojestvensky alleges, it must have been a Russian boat. The thing to do is to call on the Russians to produce their torpedo boats. If none has been sunk it should be possible to produce the exact number which entered the North sea a little over a week ago.

"But whatever may be the reference to the sinking of one of these craft, there seems to be no doubt whatever that two of the Russian torpedo boats reached Cherbourg in a damaged condition, bearing marks which indicate to my mind that they were the objects of attack by Rojestvensky's battleships.

"The Blesy Aschitchi had her stem battered and another boat had shot holes in her sides. It is for the inquiry board to find how these injuries were received. I notice, however, that the Blesy Aschitchi is getting away as fast as possible, she having already been reported as having sailed eastward from Tangier. It may be that an effort is being made to have her so far away as to make it impossible for the inquiry board to get at her officers and find out what they know about the North sea horror.

"Admiral Rojestvensky says that the torpedo boats bombarded his battleships and wounded some among his crew. That is silly, as a torpedo boat does not bombard battleships. That is not their method of attack.

"There is another method of explanation of the injured battleships. The fishermen say the Russians were on both sides of their craft and that the shots came from both ways. If that were so, it may easily happen that one of the Russian battleships fired into another. Again the wounded among the crews of the battleships may be the survivors of the sunken torpedo boat.

"I cannot help wishing that Great Britain's arrangement with Russia provided for the detention of all the vessels of the Baltic fleet, instead of simply the four battleships now at Vigo. I believe some very important evidence is running away from us."

VITAL PARTS BARE.

New United States Vessels Are Not Properly Armored.

San Francisco, Nov. 2.—The Chronicle today says: "Naval officers have succeeded for many months in keeping secret a peculiar structural feature of the new battleship Ohio, which, in the opinions of themselves, as well as others, is nothing else than a glaring defect of a nature so serious that, as one officer expressed it, amounts to an invitation to an enemy to do the vessel enormous damage in action.

"The defect consists of omitting to put armor around the after end of the superstructure within which are mounted ten 6-inch rapid-fire guns. This omission, it is held, makes the big war vessel dangerously vulnerable in a vital part to hostile shots coming from either quarter.

"Furthermore, shells entering this place might do great damage to the engine room, the hatch of which is well at in side the casemate and a shell bursting inside the casemate armor would probably send fragments into the engine room.

"The fault does not lie either with the builders or the naval constructors detailed to supervise the work. The Ohio was built strictly according to the plans and specifications which were made in the navy department in Washington under the direction and scrutiny of the board of construction."

The Chronicle further says: "The Ohio is not the only one of the new battleships with this fault. Her two sister ships, the Mai e and the Missouri, as well as the Wisconsin, Alabama and the Illinois, have this omission."

Big Elevator Collapses.

Buffalo, Nov. 2.—The Ontario elevator collapsed today and sank into the waters of the Evans slip. The elevator contained about 370,000 bushels of barley, a large portion of which lies at the bottom of the slip. The loss on the grain and the building is estimated at \$350,000. Charles Bartholomy, 62 years of age, the elevator superintendent, was seriously injured. The Ontario was built 15 years ago and had been in active operation all of this season. The collapse had its origin in the weakening of the foundation.

Discontented in Colombia.

Panama, Nov. 2.—Advices from Cauca report that there is great discontent there and throughout Colombia.

WEEK'S DOINGS

Newsy Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

OF INTEREST TO OUR READERS

General Review of Important Happenings Presented in a Brief and Condensed Form.

The Oregon building at St. Louis has been sold.

The Mukden situation remains unchanged.

Pope Pins has almost completely recovered his health.

In the Canadian elections just held the Liberals won a great victory.

The American arbitration treaty with Italy will be ready for signatures in a few days.

Great Britain may ask Admiral Dewey to represent it on the North sea commission.

President Roosevelt narrowly escaped death while out riding by being thrown from his horse.

The coroner's jury at Hull finds that the Russian ships fired on the trawlers without provocation.

America and France will be asked to name a naval officer to serve on the North sea commission.

Twenty-one British sailors shipwrecked on Massira island, near the entrance to the Red sea, were massacred by the natives.

The sinking of the Japanese battleship 'Yashima' by Russian mines off Dalny last June has been confirmed by the Tokio government.

Russia fears that Britain may yet stop the Baltic fleet.

The California airship has made another successful flight at the St. Louis fair.

Great activity prevails in naval circles at Gibraltar, but Britain will not explain its meaning.

The Russian squadron on the way to the Orient carries, besides its regular complement, a large number of laudemen.

It is claimed that Kuropatkin will retreat when Oyama again attacks, having the smaller number of guns and guns.

Bandits held up the Cody, Wyo., bank and killed the cashier. "Buffalo Bill" will take the trail in pursuit of them.

United States Minister Pearson, to Persia, has emphatically reiterated his demand for the just and proper punishment of those responsible for the murder of Dr. Larabee, the American missionary.

The sailing of the Russian squadron from Vigo led the British public to believe the time was at hand for war. The foreign office explained that Russia was only to detain officers having knowledge of the trawler incident.

The greatest battle of the war is at hand near Mukden.

The Japanese are tightening the lines around Port Arthur.

The Russian warships at Vigo expect to remain for two weeks.

China will allow no more contraband to pass through her ports.

A Memphis, Tenn., building collapsed, burying a number of persons.

The jury in the Ames case has again disagreed, and Minneapolis ex-mayor, indicted for grafting, is likely to go free.

Rothschild has guaranteed the success of the entire loan of \$270,000,000 to be floated by Russia the first of the year.

Russian papers are warning the public not to be too sanguine of an entirely satisfactory settlement of the trawler affair.

The St. Louis fair has reduced the balance due upon the United States government loan of \$4,000,000 to \$181,851.

With both employers and employees confident of victory, engineers in Illinois coal mines have gone on a strike against a reduction in wages. Fifty thousand men are affected.

Another great strike is threatened in Italy.

John W. Gates has made \$4,000,000 in four months dealing in stocks.

Admiral Rojestvensky, commanding the Baltic squadron, has resigned.

Charles Sweeney, of Spokane, may build a \$1,000,000 hotel in Portland.

Japan wants an airship to use in exploding dynamite over Russian forts and ships.

The work of rescuing the men entombed in the Colorado coal mine is proceeding slowly.

The admiral commanding the Russian Baltic fleet clings to his story that he was attacked first.

FREE ENTRY FOR EXHIBITS.

Secretary Shaw Issues Regulations for 1905 Fair.

Washington, Nov. 1.—Secretary Shaw today issued very comprehensive regulations carrying out the provisions of section 1, of the Lewis and Clark Exposition act, passed by congress last winter, authorizing free entry into this country of foreign exhibits intended for the Portland Exposition. Full instructions are given as to the manner of shipment and consignment of such exhibits, and the method of getting them through the custom-house and into the exposition grounds. The buildings and grounds of the Lewis and Clark Exposition are constituted "constructive warehouses and yards," and all foreign articles placed therein under the supervision of custom officers, specially imported for exhibition, will be treated the same as merchandise in bond. The sale of foreign exhibits will be permitted during the continuance of the exposition, but the delivery of the goods sold is to be withheld until the close of the fair, when the goods sold must pay regular duty. The enforcement of this restriction devolves upon the exposition authorities. At the close of the exposition, the goods for exportation will be exported under the general regulations for immediate export in bond.

Any attempt to take advantage of these special regulations in order to evade the tariff laws will subject the offender to the usual penalties, including a confiscation of goods, fine and imprisonment. The special regulations also provide for the importation of livestock for exhibition, due precaution being taken to guard against the admission of diseased stock. The persons who propose to exhibit Canadian cattle must procure a special permit from the secretary of agriculture.

BUTCHERS FEAR JAPANESE

President of Union Expects American Field to be Invaded.

Chicago, Nov. 1.—The invasion of the American industrial field by Japanese laborers is feared by President Michael Donnelly, of the Butcher Workmen's Union. To head off the Japanese, Donnelly will introduce a resolution at the convention of the American Federation of Labor in San Francisco, next month, calling for the enactment of legislation excluding them from the United States.

The matter was brought to Donnelly's attention by a call made on him by K. Okajima, a Japanese, who was seeking information regarding conditions in the packing plants. Mr. Okajima showed letters of introduction to the packers, recommending him as the proper person to furnish them with Japanese labor. He said that he had been told the employers in Chicago could give work to 500 to 600 men of his nationality. Pursuing his inquiries, Mr. Okajima asked if Japanese would be admitted to the labor organization, which contains nothing operating against the foreigners.

"I am sure, however," Donnelly said, "that the members of the union would not consent to receiving Japanese, and the members are greater than the constitution."

Donnelly then hastened to prepare his Japanese exclusion resolution.

EXPECTS FLEET TO GO BACK.

Japanese Officer Does Not Believe It Was Intended to Go Far.

Tokio, Nov. 1.—A prominent officer on the Japanese naval staff said today that he believed the Russian Baltic fleet would not come far on its way East. He did not believe that the Russian government desired to send it at all, and it was likely that the trawler affair in the North Sea would be used as an excuse for the recall of the fleet. Instancing reasons upon which he based his belief, he said the fleet commander, Admiral Rojestvensky, was sick when he left port, and it seemed very improbable that the Russian Government, if its intentions were serious, would send a sick admiral to navigate many thousands of miles to combat a superior force at the end of a long cruise.

"If there were any torpedo boats among the trawling fleet which was fired upon by the fleet, it was the duty of the Russian officer in command," he said, "to pursue them and investigate the base of their dispatch. Russia by her delay was seeking to render the diplomatic situation with England more critical to afford a plausible excuse to recall its fleet."

Japanese Working Yentai Mines.

Headquarters of Left Army (General Oku's) in the Field, Nov. 1.—The positions of the armies are unchanged. The Russians are continually searching the Japanese lines with their artillery, firing night and day, with seldom any reply from the Japanese. The Japanese army is now working the Yentai mines, digging enough coal for all military purposes. It is believed by mining experts that they can double the output. The gauge of the railway has been changed to Yentai and quantities of supplies and ammunition are arriving.

Jew Doctors Distinguish Themselves

Mukden, Nov. 1.—The Jewish doctors and surgeons are especially distinguishing themselves, devoting their time night and day to the wounded, and the Jewish soldiers in the field are displaying as great bravery as their comrades of other religions.